

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

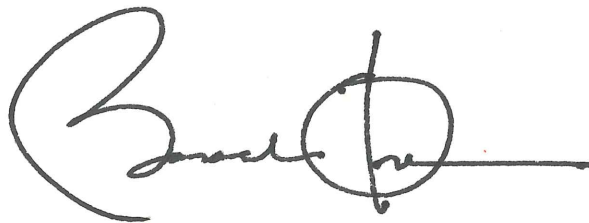
September 10, 2013

I send greetings to all those celebrating the 66th birthday of the United States Air Force on September 18.

Since the earliest days of aviation, courageous Americans have harnessed the power of flight to defend our freedom. On this occasion, we celebrate the men and women of the United States Air Force who carry this proud legacy forward. Whether in air, space, or cyberspace, these patriots dedicate their lives to protecting us from harm, and they sacrifice of themselves to advance the cause of liberty.

Thanks to our Airmen—and every member of our Armed Forces—America is safer, stronger, and more respected in the world. When disaster strikes, our Airmen are there, delivering lifesaving relief. And when the call to war sounds, they fly wherever they are needed; they fight with precision; and they win when our country depends on them most. Their committed professionalism and technological prowess make them the finest Air Force in the world, and their selflessness represents the very best of our Union's enduring values.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, I salute the United States Air Force on 66 years of service. May God bless and protect you and your loved ones, and may God bless the United States of America.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "Barack Obama", with a large circular flourish on the left and a horizontal line extending to the right.